Increase in forests and trees

2663. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forests and trees have registered an increase, as reported in the report titled 'India's Forest and Tree Cover' released by Government in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations made in the said report; and

(d) the details of the action taken by Government, so far, on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. "India State of Forest Report 2009", released on 30th November, 2009, shows an increase of 728 Km^2 in forest cover & 1,106 Km^2 in tree cover with reference to previous assessment (SFR, 2005). This report provides only the status of forest cover, tree cover, growing stock of forests, trees outside forests, forest cover in different altitude zones and distribution of forest cover in different forest types.

Deaths of tigers

2664. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of tigers is going on at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, whether various wildlife NGOs have collected statistics in the recent past in this regard;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) the details of the cases of seizures of skins, bones, claws, skeletons, canines and paws by police and wildlife authorities during 2009-10, so far, in various parts of the country;

(e) whether it is a fact that tigers in various reserves are absent because their prey has been hunted out from those reserves;

(f) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(g) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As reported by States and information gathered from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, during 2009, mortality of 59 tigers (including seizure of 7 skins) has taken place. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).